

REMARKS

Claims 4-9, 11-14, 19-21 and 24 are now pending in this application. Claims 4, 5, 11, 19, 20 and 24 have been amended to solely place the claims in condition for allowance or otherwise correct minor typographical errors or omissions. Claims 1-3, 10, 15-18, 22, 23, 25-30, 33 and 35-39 are currently being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and claims 31, 32 and 34 have been previously cancelled. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his allowance of claims 20 and 21 and acknowledgement of allowability of claims 4-9, 11-14, 19 and 24, if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the claims in which they depend upon. In view of this favorable consideration, Applicants have amended these claims to place them in condition for allowance per the Examiner's indications.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 10, 15-18, 22, 23, 25-30, 33 and 35-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,001,053, to Igisu, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,968,359, to Hebel Jr. et al., Applicant respectfully disagrees. Notwithstanding, Applicant has cancelled all of the rejected claims thereby rendering the rejections moot.

By amending the application, the Applicant does not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicant reserves the right and intends to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as originally filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicant has recited in the claims.

~~Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended~~
claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an

equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

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